

Establishing trees



Trees benefit humans, wildlife, other plants, livestock and air quality. Trees can provide income, save energy, protect livestock and provide crucial wildlife habitat.

Programs

CRP — Conservation Reserve

Program: Contracts can include tree planting that may require a longer contract agreement. Cost share is available to establish trees.

Continuous CRP — Conservation Reserve Program:

Field windbreaks and shelterbelts are also eligible for continuous CRP sign-up. They must meet the eligibility criteria of the program. See the local USDA Service Center for program rules. More information on this program is provided under wildlife habitat.

WHIP — Wildlife Habitat

Incentives Program: WHIP passed as part of the 1996 Farm Bill will begin implementation in Iowa in 1998. Shelterbelts may be established under this program. Check with the county NRCS office for eligibility requirements.

EQIP — Environmental Quality Incentives Program:

Some landowners may be eligible for tree planting under the EQIP program depending on the project priority. Check locally to see if tree planting is an EQIP practice in your county.

FIP — Forestry Incentives

Program: This program is aimed at increasing the nation's supply of timber products. Eligible FIP applicants must: be located in designated counties; have land with potential to produce 50 cu. ft. of wood per acre per year; and have at least 10 acres. Applicants outside the designated counties must receive a waiver from the IDNR State Forester to receive funds. Authorized practices for cost share include site preparation; timber stand improvement; and planting trees. NRCS administers the program. Contact the local NRCS for more information.

State cost share: State funds are available for a few tree planting practices. Check with the Conservation District to see what is available locally.

REAP — Resource Enhancement and Protection Program: Tree plantings and timber stand improvement may be cost shared through the state REAP program. Check with local Conservation Districts.



Pheasants Forever: Large farmstead shelterbelts and tree plantings for winter wildlife cover are priorities of many Pheasants Forever chapters. Pheasants Forever chapters assist in planting about 500,000 trees annually in Iowa. Call your local chapter for assistance.

Trees Forever works with groups and individuals to plan and implement tree planting and care projects. Volunteer committees may apply for matching grant funds for local programs. Limited cost share is available to landowners to establish buffers along streams and creeks.

Other help: The IDNR district foresters and wildlife biologists and NRCS staff can help determine the best trees for a site, planting design, recommendations for site preparation and weed control, management of existing timber, and thinning and pruning procedures. If your trees are in an existing program, check with the administering agency or organization before harvesting trees. See wildlife habitat section for IDNR's Shelterbelt Program.

ISU Extension may also have help available.

Program guide for Trees

	NRCS	FSA	CD	IDNR	PF	TF	EXT
Technical help	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Financial help	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	